

REMARKS

The Official Action objects to the form of claim 1, which has been amended. Withdrawal of the objection to claim 1 is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 and 6 were rejected as unpatentable over ONEILL et al. 6,085,287 in view of NIITAKA et al. EP 0400500 and WILLIAMS 2001/0042090. Claims 1 and 7 were rejected as unpatentable further in view of BALA 6,351,844. Claims 2-4, 7-9, 11, 13-14, and 16 were rejected as unpatentable further in view of RYAN 5,367,656. Claims 5, 10, 12, and 15 were rejected as unpatentable further in view of RYAN and HORII et al. JP 08-077025A. The claims have been amended and reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

The amendment clarifies that the second element (or I/O process execution unit or method step) executes new tasks as a first priority unless a number of the new tasks and tasks in execution as the first priority exceeds a first number and executes the new tasks as a second priority when the number of the new tasks and tasks in execution as the first priority exceeds the first number.

By way of explanation, with this feature the present invention reduces the number of page-out operations and parallel operations. Unless the number of new tasks and tasks in execution at the first priority exceeds the first number, the number of tasks in execution is kept small and the number of

page-out operations is reduced. On the other hand, when the number of new tasks and tasks in execution at the first priority exceeds the first number, the new tasks are not deterred from being executed but are executed at the second priority.

The Official Action acknowledges that ONEIL et al. does not disclose the second element and relies on NIITAKA et al. for the suggestion to modify ONEIL et al. However, in NIITAKA et al. the priority of every task is prescribed. The priority of the new task is never determined by the number of new tasks and tasks in execution at the first priority. Thus, NIITAKA et al. do not make for this shortcoming of ONEIL et al.

The Official Action further asserts that WILLIAMS discloses limiting the number of concurrently executed tasks to a specified number. However, this is not what is claimed. The number of tasks in execution in the present invention is not limited to the first number, because the new tasks can also be executed as the second priority.

The other references have been carefully considered and do not make up these deficiencies.

Accordingly, the amended claims avoid the rejections under §103.

In view of the present amendment and the foregoing remarks, it is believed that the present application has been placed in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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